



**Chief's Update  
September 9, 2014  
"The 500 Year Flood"**

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

Yesterday was a day in which we will all remember – especially if you were working, were called into work, or were held over. Despite conditions which can best be described as “extraordinary”, Tempe Police employees from each and every area of the department came together at a moment’s notice to do whatever was necessary to keep our community safe.

Partnering with our brothers and sisters at the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department, as well as various other city departments, Tempe Police employees made great sacrifices to make sure roadways were clear or closed; routine and emergency calls for service were answered appropriately; proper investigations of crimes continued to take place; our citizens remained informed and connected with emergency services; and above all else, people saw that we were calm and confident in our efforts to control what was in reality, uncontrollable. Similarly, what most people didn’t see – and what was just as important – was the constant communication taking place between the Valley police chiefs, as well as between Tempe Police personnel at every rank, and their counterparts at other agencies so as to ensure that mutual aid and resources were accessible, and able to be deployed, to anyone who required assistance regardless of their jurisdictional boundary.

From the EOC personnel, to the field commanders and supervisors, to the line-level employee, everyone pitched in and everyone demonstrated leadership. Not one time was it reported, nor did I hear, anyone complain when they were called-in, held-over, or forced to contend with the challenges we were called upon to face yesterday. Further, the fact that despite some who had damage at their own homes, or the fact that many employees had to endure extremely uncomfortable conditions – oftentimes standing in water up to their knees – Tempe Police employees remained steadfast in their resolve to put the needs of our community ahead of their own.

Having always been proud to be a Tempe Police Officer, yesterday was one of my proudest moments – being part of a team where all of our training, equipment, and dedication melded together into a force in which nothing stood in our way – which is something that I will never forget. As Chief, as a resident, and as a police officer, a big thanks goes out to everyone for truly “A JOB WELL DONE!”

Sincerely,

Tom Ryff  
Chief of Police